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KAMPUCHEAN RESISTANCE GROUPS

There are numerous anti-Vietnamese resistance groups in Kampuchea, most operating in the western part of the country [REDACTED] Only

two of these groups--Pol Pot's Democratic Kampuchea and Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front--have any meaningful internal following or international support, and only Pol Pot has been able to field an effective guerrilla force.

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-- Democratic Kampuchean forces comprise 30,000 to 35,000 troops deployed in about 13 "divisions".

- The DK has a strong, proven military leadership and tough, disciplined troops.

- Over the past year, DK forces have been reorganized and expanded, command and control has been strengthened, and communications improved.

- The DK fights mostly in 10- to 20-man teams, but is larger operations.

- The DK is well armed for guerrilla operations, [REDACTED]

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-- Most DK forces are deployed in the western part of Kampuchea along the Thai border and in the Cardamom mountain region, but some small units are scattered throughout the country.

- Elements from two DK divisions are operating in the northeast along the Mekong.

- Other units operate in central Kampuchea.

- The DK also has some links to resistance forces in southern Vietnam and in Laos and has been instrumental in funneling supplies to these forces.

-- The DK continues to challenge Hanoi's forces in Kampuchea, but still does not itself have the capability to hold large chunks of territory or to expel the Vietnamese. Prospects for a continuing, successful guerrilla operation, however, are a matter of debate within the Intelligence Community.

- Some analysts believe the DK will have great difficulty in replacing combat losses, let alone expand, because of the intense hatred and fear most Kampuchians feel for him.

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- Other analysts point to the DK's growth over the past year and to its increasingly aggressive attacks against Vietnamese patrols and lines of communication.
- We believe that the Khmer People's National Liberation Front probably has between 3,000 and 5,000 troops, although KPLNF sources claim total forces of 8,000 to 10,000.
  - Most KPLNF forces are in the Thai-Kampuchean border area, but they reportedly have a rudimentary, countrywide intelligence network and some small units in central Kampuchea.
  - The KPLNF has received little arms aid from the Chinese because of its refusal so far to form an alliance with the DK.
  - It has had few contacts with Vietnamese forces and has concentrated instead on military training for resistance forces in the border area.
- The KPLNF appears to be at a crossroads. It has had modest success at expanding control over small, non-Communist resistance groups and is receiving increasing international interest as a possible alternative to Pol Pot. The lack of both strong, effective leadership and control over a sizeable population however, has prevented the KPLNF from recruiting substantial numbers of followers inside Kampuchea.
  - The KPLNF claims it can raise a force of 40,000 if it receives enough arms and equipment, but we have seen little increase in its size or capabilities since it was formed.
  - Moreover, the KPLNF leadership is concerned that if it bows to Chinese and Thai pressure to unite with the hated DK leaders, it will be tarred with Pol Pot's brush and thereby itself be unable to establish a recruiting base inside Kampuchea.
- Many of the Khmer Serai, an umbrella term that includes all non-Communist resistance groups, have joined with the KPLNF. They are unlikely to improve substantially the KPLNF's military capabilities--their major confrontations so far have been with [REDACTED] other over the lucrative black market in the border area.
  - We have little information on the size or composition of these groups; they may comprise a thousand or more personnel.

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Prince Sihanouk's entry into an alliance with the DK would offer the potential for an expanded, countrywide resistance movement.

- Sihanouk's popularity inside Kampuchea could significantly expand the resistance recruiting base.
- Such an alliance would also lead villagers throughout Kampuchea to provide support for the insurgency and make it increasingly difficult for the Vietnamese to use their forces effectively.
- Some analysts note that Sihanouk, however, is a mercurial leader who may not have the determination and stamina, let alone the skills, required to guide an anti-Vietnamese movement through to victory.
- These analysts also believe moreover, the presence of Sihanouk and the consolidation of all the anti-Vietnamese elements in Kampuchea would still not give Hanoi's opposition an operating and population base that is significantly larger than that currently enjoyed by the DK.

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SUBJECT: Kampuchean Resistance Groups

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